



#6  
S-T  
12-24-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re the Application of: **Masahiro SHIOJI**

Group Art Unit: **2612**

Serial No.: **09/873,413**

Examiner: **Wendy Rae GARBER**

Filed: **June 5, 2001**

Confirmation No.: **1839**

For: **IMAGE REPRODUCING APPARATUS**

Attorney Docket No.: **010728**

Customer Number: **38834**

**RECEIVED**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

**DEC 23 2003**

**Technology Center 2600**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**December 19, 2003**

Sir:

Applicants direct the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the document listed, is attached.

No fee is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, because it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application

By: Masahiro SHIOJI

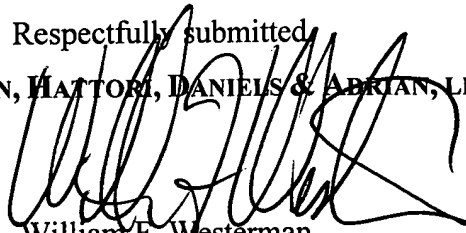
Serial No. 09/873,413

and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee that is required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



William F. Westerman  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 29,988

WFW/meu  
1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 822-1100